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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 10
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 24 January 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose a letter addressed to you by Mr. Abdul Sattar, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, concerning the premeditated attack launched by Indian forces against a Pakistani post in the Chamb sector on the Pakistan side of the line of control in the early hours of 22 January 2000 (see annex).

I have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Inam-ul HAQUE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 24 January 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you to share my deep concern over the deteriorating security situation in our region. Its latest manifestation is the escalation of serious violations along the line of control by India.

The Indian forces launched a premeditated attack against a small Pakistani post in the Chamb sector on the Pakistan side of the line of control in the early hours of 22 January. It was a company strength attack with mortars and recoilless refile bunker-busting fire. The Indian attack resulted in the death of two Pakistani soldiers while five are still missing. Heavy intermittent firing has continued there. Elsewhere along the line of control, incidents have also increased in number and intensity.

Pakistan has already lodged a complaint with the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). In view of the increasingly dangerous situation, we seek your intercession and suggest that you consider dispatching a personal envoy to the region to urge India to desist from provocative acts, which could lead to further escalation and serious consequences.

I wish to assure you that Pakistan will extend its fullest cooperation to the United Nations and to your personal envoy with a view to the improvement of the security environment and the preservation of peace and stability in the region.

(Signed) Abdul SATTAR
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Pakistan

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LETTER DATED 24 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 24 November to 14 December 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the report to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force (KFOR) operations

1. Over the reporting period (24 November-14 December 1999), there were approximately 44,000 Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops deployed in the theatre. There have been no changes in national deployments since the last report.

2. The deployment of Russian troops into the area around Orahovac in Multinational Brigade (MNB) (South) continues to be hampered, despite the removal of the last roadblock around the town on 24 November. Efforts towards a complete resolution of the deployment problem are under way.

Security

3. Although the overall level of violence during the reporting period was low, there was an upswing in the last week of November, particularly in the number of murders committed. For the most part, these murders appear to have been ethnically motivated, such as the murder of a Serbian professor in Pristina during Kosovo flag-day celebrations on 29 November. Acts of harassment and intimidation also continued, with incidents of ethnically motivated violence that demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and preparation, such as the mortar attacks against Kosovar Serb villages near Gnjilane in MNB (East) in November. Arson attacks on property also continued throughout the period, especially on houses belonging to Serbs, and the security situation for all the ethnic minorities in Kosovo remains precarious.

4. KFOR consequently continues to attach the highest priority to the protection of the ethnic minorities, and approximately 50 per cent of its personnel is assigned to this task. Troops continue to provide a permanent presence in Serb towns, villages and neighbourhoods and even in individual houses, and to organize patrols and checkpoints in key areas to provide security and instil a feeling of confidence in the community. Simultaneously, KFOR is following an overall strategy that aims at reducing the amount of ethnically motivated violence in Kosovo. This includes the establishment of joint security working groups, escorts for individuals and groups when necessary, escorts for humanitarian aid convoys, high-profile patrols and static checkpoints in and around ethnic minority pockets, as noted above, and operations to find and confiscate illegal/unauthorized weapons and munitions throughout Kosovo. KFOR troops are also working to combat organized crime in the province.

5. Since June 1999, the number of murders and other violent acts in the province has decreased gradually and significantly, despite occasional setbacks. KFOR's presence has resulted in a reduction in the number of reported major offences, from over 300 in the last week of June to less than 50 in the last week of November.

6. On 24 November, snipers fired at KFOR troops as they were guarding an orthodox church in Zvecan in MNB (West). Patrols were sent to reinforce the troops at the church, and a search for the snipers was conducted. Unfortunately, they escaped. There were no injuries. Similarly, on

26 November, shots were fired at KFOR troops in MNB (North) and in MNB (East). Again, troops conducted patrols to locate the snipers, but they escaped. There were no injuries.

7. KFOR continues to work closely with the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) and other demining organizations in Kosovo in order to foster mine awareness training and to educate both soldiers and civilians of the danger of mines and unexploded ordnance. Increased efforts in this area have resulted in a decreasing number of mine incidents. KFOR's focus remains on eradicating the threat posed by cluster bomb units (CBUs), on clearing border-crossing sites and on conducting expedient clearance of those areas that impact on immediate operations or freedom of movement. The Serb Army (VJ) has provided 607 records of minefields to KFOR. To date, KFOR has cleared mines from 590 schools in Kosovo. By 18 November 1999, 6,130 anti-personnel mines, 3,481 anti-tank mines and 7,408 bomblets had been cleared.

8. Residual caches of weapons continue to be discovered and confiscated throughout the area of operations. At the beginning of December, KFOR troops uncovered weapons and large quantities of explosives, mines and ammunition during a search of former Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) assembly areas being used by the provisional Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC). KFOR's weapons destruction policy, which began on 15 October, has resulted to date in the destruction of 2,053 weapons, 57 mines and explosive devices and 836 items of ammunition.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

9. The provisional KPC is still not in existence as an organization, although the selection process is expected to be completed by late January. In December, 42 nominations were received for the 44 key leader positions; of these nominees, 4 were disqualified and 9 selected on a probationary basis. To date, there have been only 95 applicants from ethnic minority groups. Over the reporting period, the provisional KPC as a whole was deemed to be in compliance with the 12 November instructions of the KFOR Commander (COMKFOR), although individuals have been non-compliant with respect to the spirit of those instructions, and there have been examples of involvement in the intimidation of ethnic minorities and in smuggling and organized crime. The provisional Commander, Mr. Ceku, has repeatedly given his assurance to COMKFOR that the organization will work within the instructions.

10. The VJ and Serb security forces continue to comply with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) and in general remain cooperative in their dealings with KFOR.

Cooperation with international organizations

11. KFOR continues to provide humanitarian assistance throughout Kosovo on a daily basis, with particular focus on the transport of fuel and firewood throughout the province, especially to inaccessible areas and to minorities. KFOR troops also continue to support food distribution and the escort of refugees and internally displaced persons.

12. At 14 December 1999, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) police force numbered 1,900 persons. Responsibility for public security operations has been transferred from KFOR to UNMIK police in Pristina, Prizren, Mitrovica and Uroševac, although KFOR still provides troops for joint patrols. KFOR also provides daily support to the Kosovo Police School (KPS), whose first graduates have been deployed all over Kosovo for on-the-job training with UNMIK police.

13. Control and monitoring of borders remain a high priority for KFOR, with KFOR troops providing 24-hour control and monitoring of the authorized border-crossing points with Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.[a] KFOR also provides security for the transportation to Pristina of the customs duties collected at the border. During the reporting period, KFOR troops prevented a number of illegal crossings on the border between Albania and Kosovo.

14. KFOR continues to support UNMIK at all levels of the civil administration. On 15 December, a "Kosovo-UNMIK Joint Interim Administrative Structure" was established aimed at ensuring the participation in Kosovo's administrative structure of all parties in the province. To date, however, no minority representatives have participated. Over the reporting period, KFOR provided escorts for UNMIK officials to various proposed civil registration sites throughout the province. The sites will be used by UNMIK to register and provide identification documents to all citizens.

15. KFOR is currently operating and maintaining the rail network in the province, although progress is being made in establishing a civilian-run rail system. Over the reporting period, Pristina airport remained closed to commercial traffic.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

16. In December, more than 6,300 refugee returns were organized, mainly from countries outside the Balkans.

Outlook

17. There has been no significant change in the security situation in Kosovo since the last report. Ethnically motivated violence remains a major cause for concern, with continued tension in areas such as Mitrovica, Gnjilane and Orahovac. KFOR will continue to work in close coordination with UNMIK to address these issues in order to promote and maintain peace and stability in the province.

Notes

[a] Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

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LETTER DATED 25 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the recent inauguration of the so-called Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), which amounts to an attempt to legalize the terrorist separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), and its drive to impose itself as a security factor in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

This intention is confirmed by the statement made by terrorists, members of the so-called KPC, at the ceremony in Pristina in the presence of Bernard Kouchner, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), and Klaus Reinhardt, Commander of the Kosovo Force (KFOR), to the effect that the so-called KPC's goal is to maintain security in the territory and protect the borders of Kosovo.

What this terrorist organization is after is to become a military force that would take security matters in this Serbian province into its own hands, contrary to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and related documents that stipulate that the sole responsibility for these matters rests with the international security and civil presences.

This is borne out by the continued terror of the KLA, the entire personnel of which has been incorporated into the so-called KPC, against the non-Albanian population, resulting in the expulsion of 350,000 Serbs, Montenegrins and other non-Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija. The most telling evidence of the terror taking place in the presence of the international presences which have failed to demilitarize and disarm the terrorists was the shelling of the Serbian village of Caglavica near Pristina immediately after the inauguration of the so-called KPC.

By their tolerant attitude towards the KLA and, by extension, by their complicity in the commission of the most heinous crimes, as well as by establishing, inaugurating and running the so-called KPC, composed entirely of the members of the terrorist separatist KLA, KFOR and UNMIK have flagrantly violated their mandate, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), and are

directly responsible for the disastrous security situation in Kosovo and Metohija and the escalation of terror ever since their deployment.

Bearing in mind the aforementioned, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia requests that the crimes committed by the members of the terrorist separatist KLA, transformed now into the so-called KPC, be condemned, that that terrorist separatist organization be fully demilitarized and disarmed, that its structures be disbanded and that its leaders who have committed numerous crimes against non-Albanians be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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26 January 2000
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ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on further measures for the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, extending the presence of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of CIS in Abkhazia, Georgia, for six months (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) G. GATILOV

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Annex

Decision on further measures for the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia

The Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS),

Considering the need to give new impetus to the process of settling the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, on the basis of respect for the territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders in accordance with the provisions set out on this matter in previous decisions and documents of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and CIS,

Expressing concern that the acute humanitarian problems created by the conflict have not been resolved,

Regarding the establishment of an effective mechanism for giving effect to the inalienable right of the refugees and displaced persons to a safe and dignified return to the places of their former residence, primarily in Gali district (within its old borders), with international guarantees, as a priority task,

Noting the important role of the United Nations and other international organizations in the process of settling the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, and considering that it needs to be further strengthened,

Emphasizing the significance of the efforts made by the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), by the Russian Federation as facilitator, by OSCE and by the States making up the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the peacemaking process,

Recognizing the stabilizing role of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of CIS in the conflict zone, and with a view to their more active participation in ensuring the security of the refugees and temporarily displaced persons,

Has decided:

1. To extend the presence of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of CIS in Abkhazia, Georgia, for six months from the date of signature of this Decision;

2. To confirm the mandate of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces of CIS in Abkhazia, Georgia, from 2 April 1999 until the adoption of this Decision;

3. To continue as soon as possible the consultations on ensuring implementation of previous decisions of the Council of Heads of State of CIS, inter alia with respect to the expansion of the security zone and the elaboration, on the basis of a mechanism agreed by the parties to the conflict, of a procedure for its implementation;

4. To inform the Security Council of this decision.

DONE in the Russian language in accordance with the procedure laid down by rule 20, paragraph 6, of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Heads of State and Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The original is in the keeping of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which will send a true copy thereof to each State member of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

For Azerbaijan:

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For Armenia:
(Signed) R. KOCHARYAN
7 January 2000

For Belarus:

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For Georgia:
(Signed) E. SHEVARDNADZE
7 December 1999

For Kazakhstan:
(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV
18 October 1999

For Kyrgyzstan:
(Signed) A. AKAYE
7 October 1999

For Moldova:

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For the Russian Federation:
(Signed) B. YELTSIN
30 December 1999

For Tajikistan:
(Signed) E. RAKHMONOV
15 October 1999

For Turkmenistan:

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For Uzbekistan:
(Signed) I. KARIMOV
15 October 1999

For Ukraine:

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I hereby certify that the attached text is a copy of the authentic text of the Decision on further measures to settle the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, drawn up in accordance with the results of a vote by the Heads of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States organized in accordance with rule 20, paragraph 6, of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Heads of State and the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States approved by decision of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth in Moscow on 17 May 1996. Copies of the above decision with the original signatures of the Heads of the States members of the Commonwealth are in the keeping of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

(Signed) Yu. YAROV
Chairman of the Executive Committee
Executive Secretary
Commonwealth of Independent States